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Lorenza Waugh

Lorenzo Waugh, the circuit rider who preached his way across the continent, was born in Pocahontas county on the Greenbrier River a few miles below Clover Lick. He is a relative of the Rev. John Waugh spoken of so often in the early church history of this county.

The friendship between the Waugh family and that of Jacob Warwick had its effects on Lorenzo Waugh for he was taught to read and write by Elizabeth Warwick-daughter of Jacob Warwick.

At one time, when he was a young man, he was at a house raising in the vicinity of Clover Lick. A man by the name of Friel was boasting of his fleetness of foot. Jacob Warwick called young Waugh to one side and promised him a colt if he would beat Friel in a foot race. From this filly came practically all of his mounts during more than the half century of riding.

The turning point in his life was seeing a statement in a newspaper that a man in a distant place was willing to assist some boy in getting an education to prepare himself for the ministry. He answered the letter and was told that the place had been given to another, but the germ had been sown, and he left home and went to Harrison county and proceeded to carry out his plan on his own resources. He had not been there long until the teacher was discharged for drunkeness and Lorenzo Waugh was given his place. From that time on he was engaged in the professional duties as a teacher, preacher, missionary and author. He was only sixteen years of age when he began his career as a teacher in Harrison county. He was a

teacher in Mason county in 1831, entered the Methodist ministry in that year, and was junior preacher on the Guyandotte circuit. In 1833 he rode the Nicholas county circuit, and was transferred to the Ohio conference in 1834. In 1835 he became a member of the Missouri Conference. In 1837 he was a missionary to the Shawnee nation. In 1840 he rode the Platte River circuit, now in Nebraska, and in 1848 he entered the Illinois Conference. In 1851 with his family he crossed the plains in an ox wagon and settled in the Petaluma Valley in California, where he resided until his death in 1899 at the age of 91 years.

He had a remarkable career. Starting on his ministerial career in Virginia(now W. Va.) he literally preached himself across the continent to the shores of the Pacific. He was a circuit rider from a way back. He wrote a book of his life which was so full of moral precepts and instructions that it became a church publication and went into many editions. From this work it is possible to form a correct estimate of his character and to realize that his life was valuable to his country. The circuit rider of a few years ago was inseparably connected with his horse.

He was a vivid preacher ofdthe Gospel, a steadfast adherent to the Methodist church, a man of clean life, one of the originators of the temperance movement, an enemy to tobacco in any form, a hunter of big game, and a dead shot with the rifle. At the time he began his his work, the Methodist church of America was nothing like the tremendous organization that it is today, and it is apparent that during his ministry, the faith he labored for grew from a comparativly small denomination to

the most numerous and the most powerful Protestant church in America. Such being the case, it is safe to say that when the life and times of Lorenzo Waugh becomes crystalised by history his long and widespread ministerial work will class him as one of the fathers of the church in this continent.